



January 29, 2008

California Energy Commissioners
c/o Deborah Godfrey
California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street, MS-42 Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 2160 Green Building Report Commercial Incentives/Barriers

California Energy Commissioners:

Builders have been developing new ways to build green for years. Commercial buildings use 36 percent of the state's electricity and costs to power these buildings are around \$12 billion a year. In an effort to cut costs, it is natural that businesses would look for ways to use energy more efficiently.

The California Chamber of Commerce is generally pleased with the California Energy Commission's report and appreciates the opportunity to respond. We would like to express our support for three strategies we feel will assist our members in continuing to "build green."

Support for Carbon Credits under AB 32. Under the state's landmark carbon reduction law, AB 32, the CEC could support carbon credits and trading for energy efficient buildings. As an incentive to make buildings more efficient before the 1990 baseline is set, the CEC could support a system for companies to receive credits now.

Provide Funding for Training and Education of Building Managers. Provide funding for training of private sector building managers to increase their knowledge of how to more effectively manage energy efficient buildings.

Tax Credit. Support the establishment of a state tax credit for energy efficiency and/or water conservation measures for new construction (and retrofit).

It is important that innovations in green building are not sabotaged by state mandates. The demand for green products is skyrocketing and the market will adjust accordingly. The business community supports green building standards and is actively engaged in proliferation of the technology. CalChamber's members want to see green buildings flourish in this state, but hope that this development will continue to be done in a collaborative manner with industry and through an incentive-based approach that has already proven successful.

Sincerely,

John Hooper
Policy Advocate